

such as General Abizaid, the CENTCOM commander, and General Casey, who is in charge of coalition forces in Iraq. They have told us we have to finish the job, that we can finish the job, that there is no military on the face of the Earth that can defeat the United States of America; that the only one who can defeat the United States of America is the United States itself—by losing our resolve, by prematurely withdrawing, by cutting and running, and leaving the Iraqis to fend for themselves in what would surely descend into chaos.

Our withdrawal from Iraq should be determined by the military commanders on the ground and our Commander in Chief. All of us who have been to Iraq to visit our troops on the ground are confident that over time the 210,000 or so Iraqis who have now been trained to provide security for their own people sooner or later will be able to take this job upon themselves and we can begin to gradually, as circumstances dictate on the ground, bring our troops home.

Do all of us wish our troops could come home sooner rather than later? You bet we do. We want them to come home as soon as we can get them home, consistent with our duty to finish the job we started in Iraq. But we should not under any circumstance impose an arbitrary timetable on our forces, signaling weakness to our enemy, emboldening them to stay with their strategy because it must be working, and we must keep going even though it is tough. Our troops in Iraq are committed to victory.

I mentioned the chasm that separates Washington, DC, and these Chambers from the rest of America when it comes to the perception of what we are about in Iraq and the fight for freedom's cause. There is also a huge difference when you travel to Iraq and talk to our troops. They wonder at some of the news reports and some of the politicalization of what they are about, that they aren't confused about their job, they aren't confused about the nobility of their cause and the importance of what they are about. Our troops in Iraq are committed to victory. I hope our elected officials would show the same resolve here at home.

As every one of our military personnel in Iraq understands, Americans do not cut and run, Americans do not abandon their commitments, and Americans do not abandon their friends.

We must remember that it is in the absence of democracy, in the absence of the rule of law that extremism appears. When the rule of law is implemented, when people have a forum by which to redress their grievances as we do in democratic circumstances, this is when the radical ideologues are stifled and even extinguished.

We have to remember how far the Iraqi people have come in such a relatively short time—from a time when they were ruled by a dictator who

cared nothing for human life and who used weapons of mass destruction on his own people. I have seen, as have others in this body, the mass graves where at last count at least 400,000 Iraqis lie dead because of the ruthlessness of this blood-thirsty dictator. It was only 2 short years ago that the people of Iraq were oppressed by this brutal dictator. Those who privately yearned for freedom kept silent out of fear for their lives and the lives of their family and other loved ones. But that is no longer the case.

We have seen and continue to see that our strategy is working. The Iraqi people will vote in elections next month. I make a prediction that their turnout in these elections will be broad-based, across all the sects in Iraq, and their turnout will exceed the turnout we see in this country in our national elections. We saw that happen with, I believe, the 63-percent turnout in the vote to ratify the Constitution. It now appears that the Sunnis, many of whom boycotted that election, will finally participate in full force in electing their first leaders in a permanent government.

I hope the Members of this body who yield to the temptation to politicize this issue realize their remarks run the real risk of not only dividing Americans but undermining the resolve for the important task we have at hand, and devalue the sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform and the noble cause they are about.

I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I will not object, but I would amend the unanimous consent request by asking unanimous consent that Senator COLLINS and I have 40 minutes equally divided after the Senator from Kentucky speaks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

#### CONDEMNATION OF THE AMMAN TERRORIST BOMBINGS BY KING ABDULLAH II OF JORDAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to express my deepest condolences to the families of the innocent victims of the brutal terrorist attacks that occurred in Amman, Jordan, last Wednesday. Homicide bombers, wearing deadly explosives under their clothes, entered three popular and crowded hotels and detonated themselves. Jordanian authorities have determined the attack was the work of al-Qaida.

So far, 57 are thought dead, among them a number of children; many more

are injured. A wedding reception was underway in one of the hotels, and on the day after what should have been the happiest day of their lives, a young Jordanian bride and her groom each had to bury their slain fathers.

I know my colleagues join me in completely condemning the terrorists behind this attack. America will never give in to terrorists and their murder of innocents. Unthinkable evil like that only strengthens our resolve to fight terror and bring those who practice it to justice.

According to our great ally King Abdullah II of Jordan, the targets of these Muslim terrorists were not Americans, but fellow Muslims. The hotels were well known to be frequented by Jordanians and Iraqis.

The terrorists' hope is that by attacking America's allies, like Jordan, they can frighten those countries into abandoning the War on Terror, and divide the grand coalition of free nations who oppose them. That appears to have been the purpose of the Amman attacks.

Well, the terrorists will not get what they want. I wish to bring to my colleagues' attention the inspired words of His Majesty King Abdullah, given shortly after the terrorists struck. Before this bombing, King Abdullah was America's steadfast partner in the War on Terror. Today, if possible, he stands even more aligned with our effort to fight terror.

King Abdullah and the Jordanian people will not be swayed by the terrorists.

In fact, we saw the demonstrators in the streets of Jordan—not against the King but against the terrorists.

The day after the bombings, the King declared: "We will not be intimidated into altering our position, nor will we abandon our convictions or forfeit our role in the fight against terrorism in all its forms." He continued, "To the contrary, every act of terrorism strengthens our resolve to adhere to our convictions, and to confront, with all the means at our disposal, those who seek to undermine the security and stability of this country."

We all applaud King Abdullah for his strength and commitment to this fight. He refuses to bend to fear. His vision of a Jordan that rejects terror strengthens the will of every Jordanian, even those who emerged bloody and scarred from these atrocious attacks, to see this struggle through.

King Abdullah also deserves praise for his message that Islam is a religion of peace, and that the terrorists are not protectors of the Muslim faith but defilers of it. He is one of the world's foremost voices for moderation and tolerance in Islam. He understands that the War on Terror is not a war between America and Islam, as some of the most radical terrorists try to paint it, but actually a war between a small, fringe faction of violent extremists on one hand and a coalition of all freedom-loving peoples, Muslim, Christian,